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ABSTRACT

The Institute for the Study of Sparsely Populated Areas is a multidisciplinary research unit which acts to coordinate, further, and initiate studies of the economic and social conditions of sparsely populated areas. Short summaries of the eight studies completed in the session of 1977-78 indicate work in such areas as the study of political life in a small burgh in northeast Scotland, the development of the Kuwait economy, and an analysis of the direct and indirect input and requirements of labour skills in Welsh industries. Other topics deal with oil tanker operations and pollution in the North Sea, and an economic appraisal of the loss of fishing grounds due to oil and gas installations in the North Sea. Fifteen studies are currently in progress dealing with such subjects as Scottish migration patterns, economic effects of oil and gas developments on local communities, Norwegian oil policies, cost of living and rural areas of Scotland, resource allocation in capital surplus economics, and education and migration from the rural Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Information given on each study includes title, staff members, timescale, finance source, and summary of the work. The final section of the paper lists the Institute's publications for 1977-78. (DS)

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INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS

ISSPA

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The University of Aberdeen

A centre for interdisciplinary research into sparsely populated and peripheral regions

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The Institute for the Study of Sparsely Populated Areas (ISSPA) arose out of the tradition of studies by social scientists in Aberdeen into specific problems associated with peripheral regions and areas of low population density. Established by the University in 1974, the Institute is a multidisciplinary research unit which acts to co-ordinate, further and initiate studies of the economic and social conditions of sparsely populated areas. This is a unique remit for a research centre within the United Kingdom. As well as its own in-house staff, the Institute has established a system of associateships, and a number of members of staff in other appropriate departments are associates of the Institute. We have also established links between other British and overseas universities and research bodies, in particular those at which parallel studies have been carried out, such as the Universities of Tromsø and Bergen and the Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research in Oslo. We received generous travel grants, first from the British Council, and later from Shell International, for this purpose.

Recently, our interests have extended into areas of the Middle East, and we have been particularly interested in the problems of the Gulf States, particularly those problems created by the rapid developments in areas formerly very sparsely populated, but which now attract population as a result of oil wealth.

Each year we receive visiting academics from other universities and institutions at home and abroad. During the session 1977-78, our visitors included representatives from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Poland, Canada, United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Japan, and many from other parts of the British Isles. Such contacts with those interested in work similar to that of the Institute is always welcome.

We have quota status with the Social Science Research Council and are able to accept students for post-graduate training. It is a feature of our post-graduate work that students are encouraged to associate themselves with projects already established in the Institute, thus gaining field experience under the direction of trained researchers.

A further feature of our activity is the International Seminar on Marginal Regions. This has become a biennial event and brings together researchers from Europe, North America and elsewhere. The proceedings are published by the Institute. The seminar for 1979 will take place in Dublin.

Short notes on the studies completed in the session 1977-78 and on those at present in progress are to be found in following pages. It should be noted that many of these are in fact undertaken as joint ventures with members of other departments or institutions, and where this is so reference is made to the fact in the appropriate sections on staffing. Further information on these studies may be obtained from the secretary of the Institute at the address shown on the first page of this brochure.

P.G. Sadler,
Director.

STUDIES COMPLETED, 1977-78

(1)

Title: Applecross, Development or Decline?

Staff: D. Gunn.

Timescale: 1976-78.

Finance: SSRC.

Summary: A discussion of the social and economic history of Applecross in Wester Ross as it pertains to the problem of modern development, which has been affected by the opening of a new road. Thesis for M.Litt lodged with the University Library.

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(2)

Title: Democracy in Fishport.

Staff: J. Sewel.
With Professor F. Bealey (Department of Politics).

Timescale: 1973-78.

Finance: SSRC.

Summary: A study of the political life of a small burgh in the North East of Scotland. A book will be published in 1979.

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(3)

Title: Development of the Kuwait Economy.

Joint Authors: P.G. Sadler.
In conjunction with Dr. M.W. Khouja (Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development).

Timescale: 1977-78.

Finance: Expenses provided by the Government of Kuwait.

Summary: The research is intended to explore the development of the Kuwait economy to the present day and to act as a basis for future development planning. The results are published by Macmillans under the title "The Economy of Kuwait. Development and Role in International Finance", M.W. Khouja and P.G. Sadler.

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(4)

Title: The Welsh Social Accounts: a Labour Dimension.

Staff: P.G. Sadler.
With R. Jarvis (Institute for Economic Research, University College of North Wales, Bangor).

Timescale: 1975-78.

Finance: Welsh Office.

Summary: An analysis of the direct and indirect input and requirements of labour skills in Welsh industries. The research seeks to provide information in the form of an input-output type matrix which may be used in conjunction with a Leontief inverse for industrial output to forecast labour requirements under conditions of industrial development. The results will be published by the Welsh Office.

(5)

Title: Oil Tanker operations and pollution in the North Sea.

Staff: P.G. Sadler.
R. Edwards (Department of Political Economy).

Timescale: 1977-78.

Finance: OECD, Paris.

Summary: OECD will publish the report under the title "The retrofitting of the existing world tanker fleet with segregated ballast: the effects on fishing off North East Scotland".

(6)

Title: The Highlands and Islands Development Board, 1965-75.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.

Timescale: 1975-78.

Finance: Internal.

Summary: This has been a long-run investigation into the role and performance of the HIDB since its inception in 1965. A monograph based on the study will be published and it is hoped to follow this with comparative studies of similar bodies in Scandinavia, North America, etc.

(7)

Title: Loss of access to fishing grounds due to oil and gas installations in the North Sea.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.
Professor D.W. Pearce (Department of Political Economy).
Miss A. Stewart. (").
R. Blackmore (University of East Anglia).

Timescale: 1977-78.

Finance: British Fishing Federation and Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

Summary: The study is an economic appraisal of the loss of fishing grounds due to platforms, pipelines, exploration rigs and suspended wellheads. Various methodologies of estimating losses and placing monetary values on them have been investigated, and forecasts made of likely future losses. A report is available from ISSPA (see appendix).

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(8)

Title: The decentralization of petrochemical complexes.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.
T. Lind (Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research).
J-O. Viste (").
J.E. Reiersen (University of Tromsø).

Timescale: 1977-78.

Finance: Royal Norwegian Ministry of Industry and NIBR.

Summary: The Ministry of Industry has commissioned NIBR to investigate the social and economic consequences of the splitting up of petrochemical complexes. The intention is to examine the possibilities of ensuring that such developments, if they were to go ahead in North Norway, would be in keeping with local social and economic structures. Reports, in Norwegian and English, were published in 1978.

STUDIES IN PROGRESS

(9)

Title: Education and migration.

Staff: J. Sewel.
Professor J. Nisbet (Department of Education).

Timescale: Report published 1976, follow-up study in progress.

Finance: Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Summary: A study of the migration and job expectations of young people and their parents in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

(10)

Title: Highlands and Islands migration study.

Staff: R. Lumb.

Timescale: 1977-80.

Finance: Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Summary: Research into patterns and processes behind population movement within, to and from the Scottish Highlands. In particular to examine depopulation, stability and prospects for the future.

(11)

Title: Local communities and North Sea oil and gas developments.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.
Professor D.I. MacKay (Department of Economics, Heriot-Watt University).
Mrs. A. Moir.

Timescale: 1977-79.

Finance: SSRC North Sea Oil Panel.

Summary: To assess the economic effects of the oil and gas developments, particularly on local communities in the North of Scotland. Previous work has concentrated on the exploration and development phases; the main emphasis here is on the production phase and the more permanent effects, including the aftermath of large temporary projects such as platform and terminal construction.

(12)

Title: Norwegian Oil Policies.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.
T. Lind (Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research).

Timescale: 1977-79.

Finance: Internal.

Summary: An examination of government policies towards oil exploration and development offshore Norway, including licensing, depletion, taxation policies and the role of Statoil. Particular attention is being given to the debate about oil activity north of 62° North. A book will be published by Christopher Hurst and Co. Ltd. in early 1979.

(13)

Title: The Cost of Living in the Rural Areas of Scotland.

Staff: P.G. Sadler.
G.A. Mackay.
Mrs. A.A.D. Marr.

Timescale: 1977-78.

Finance: Scottish Consumer Council and Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Summary: Pilot survey of a three stage proposal to construct a separate index of prices for the rural areas of Scotland. The initial study reported on the feasibility of the long term project and formulation of its design; the next stage concerned the establishment of the base of the index, the network of respondents and the general monitoring machinery. It is intended that the index will ultimately be issued quarterly. A preliminary report is available from ISSPA (see appendix).

(14)

Title: Local attitudes to oil and gas developments in North Norway.

Staff: J. Sewel.
(In association with the University of Tromsø).

Timescale: 1977-79.

Finance: University of Tromsø and internal.

Summary: Exploration for oil and gas deposits is expected to begin off the coast of North Norway in 1979. At the present time there is a good deal of opposition to such exploration, mainly because of fears about the impact of associated onshore developments and the threat to the fishing industry from oil pollution. This study is examining the factors which have affected local views.

(15)

Title: The problem of resource allocation in capital surplus economies.

Staff: P.G. Sadler.
Saad Andary.

Timescale: 1977-79.

Finance: Internal.

Summary: The particular focus is the role of overseas investment and foreign aid. Initial work has concentrated on Kuwait but it is intended to make the study more general, to include, for example, industrialized countries such as Norway.

(16)

Title: Monetary management in a capital surplus economy.

Staff: Farah G. Fadil.
(Jointly with Department of Political Economy.)

Timescale: 1978-1981.

Finance: Internal.

Summary: A case study of monetary policy in Kuwait.

(17)

Title: The Development of the Financial Market in Kuwait.

Staff: Saad Andary.
(Jointly with Department of Political Economy.)

Timescale: 1977-79.

Finance: Internal.

Summary: This study is to examine the relationships between financial growth and economic development, and to analyse financial developments in Kuwait and how these may influence the course of the country's economic development.

(18)

Title: The planning and educational implications of the organization of primary education in rural areas of Scotland.

Staff: J. Sewel.
P.G. Sadler.
G.A. Mackay.
Professor J.D. Nisbet (Department of Education).
D. Shanks (").
Mrs. J. Welsh (").
Dr. Diana Forsythe.

Timescale: Autumn 1978-80.

Finance: Scottish Development Department in conjunction with the Scottish Education Department.

Summary: This is a two-year project, conducted jointly with the Department of Education, and is concerned with the role of the primary school in sustaining local communities in rural areas. Policies on primary school organisation in different areas and various countries from 1950 to 1977 will be reviewed. The project will study the effects of different decisions (both for and against consolidation) on the quality of education and on community life in the areas served by the schools. This will be followed by a series of case studies of about six selected areas in each region, chosen to include several primary schools but small enough to allow close consultation, including personal interviews. Field work will be concentrated in the Highland and Tayside regions, in cooperation with the regional councils.

(19)

Title: Economic and social implications of employment reductions in oil-related areas.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.
J. Sewel.
R. Dunne.

Timescale: February 1979-81.

Finance: SSRC North Sea Oil Panel.

Summary: Most of the onshore impacts associated with the North Sea oil and gas developments have occurred in the more rural parts of Scotland. In such areas there have been large increases in employment and economic activity. Some aspects of the industry (e.g. production platform construction) are short-term and generate substantial fluctuations in employment levels. The aim of the study is to examine the economic and social implications of these fluctuations, including an analysis of what has happened to people made redundant, the effects of local firms, the job and migration expectations and experiences of different population groups.

(20)

Title: Consumers in remote areas.

Staff: G.A. Mackay.
G. Laing.
P.G. Sadler.

Timescale: November 1978-80.

Finance: Scottish Consumer Council.

Summary: An economic study of the problems peculiar to consumers in remote areas. The study will examine the facts relating to variations in cost, quality, access, availability and choice of consumer goods and services in different remote locations, and make recommendations. This is seen as the "core" of a wider research programme and discussions are underway concerning a series of parallel studies to examine particular aspects in more detail, e.g. the problems on the supply side.

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(21)

Title: Prices and the cost of living in rural areas.

Staff: K.M.K. Macdonald.

Timescale: October 1978-80.

Finance: SSRC.

Summary: This is a study of the problems of price measurement, the construction of price indices and the possibilities of making adjustments for quality differences. It includes an analysis of price formation in the retail sector.

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(22)

Title: The local labour market impact of North Sea oil and gas developments.

Staff: B. Gardner.

Timescale: October 1978-80.

Finance: SSRC.

Summary: A detailed examination of the local labour market effects of the North Sea developments, both onshore and offshore. A case study area in the North of Scotland has yet to be decided.

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(23)

Title: Concurrent Functions of Public Authorities.

Staff: P.G. Sadler.
G.A. Mackay.
E. McNab.

Timescale: January - September 1979.

Finance: Highland Regional Council.

Summary: To investigate the roles and powers of the various bodies incurring public expenditure in the Highlands, particularly where their functions appear to overlap. Comparison will be made between this area and other areas abroad, and it is hoped that this will be an initial study on which future investigations may be based.

PUBLICATIONS LIST, 1977-78

Institute for the Study of Sparsely Populated Areas

MACKAY, G.A., "North Sea terminals." Northern Offshore, 6,12, December 1977, pp. 16-21.

"Il petrolio del Mare del Nord: l'economia scozzese ed i differenziali regionali nel Regno Unito." Archivo di Studi Urbani e Regionali, 1, 1977, pp. 37-45.

"The Shetland fishing industry: implications of the various constitutional models." In The Nevis Institute, The Shetland Report, vol. 2, The Nevis Institute, Edinburgh, 1978.

"Manpower and education." In Chopra, R. (ed.), Oman: Transformation of an Economy, The World Bank, Washing[illegible], 1977.

"The development plan and prospects." In Chopra, R. (ed.), Oman: Transformation of an Economy, The World Bank, Washington, 1977.

"The consumer in remote areas: prices and choice." Papers of the National Consumer Congress, London, 1978.

MACKAY, G.A., GASKIN, M., MARR, A.A.D. (with MACKAY, D.I. & TRIMBLE, N.F.), The economic impact of North Sea oil on Scotland, HMSO, Edinburgh, 1977.

MACKAY, G.A. and PEARCE, D.W., "Oil and fishing - conflict in the North Sea." Marine Policy, 3, 1978, pp. 34-36.

MACKAY, G.A., BLACKMORE, R., PEARCE, D.W. and STEWART, A., Loss of access to fishing grounds due to oil and gas installations in the North Sea, Department of Political Economy and ISSPA, University of Aberdeen, Research Report no. 1, 1978.

MACKAY, G.A. (with LIND, T., REIRSEN, J-E., VISTE, J-O. and WOOD, S.), Desentralisering av petroleumbasert industri, Norsk Institutt for By-og Regionforskning, Oslo, 1978.

MACKAY, G.A. (with LIND, T. and VISTE, J.O.), Tidsfaktoren ved terminalutbygging, Norsk Institutt for By-og Regionforskning, Oslo, 1978.

MARR, A.A.D., MACKAY, G.A. and SADLER, P.G., Prices in Scottish rural areas: a proposed index, Scottish Consumer Council and ISSPA, Aberdeen, 1978.

SADLER, P.G. (with KHOUJA, M.W.), The Economy of Kuwait. Development and Role in International Finance, Macmillan Press, London, 1978.

SADLER, P.G. (with JARVIS, R.), The Welsh Social Accounts: A Labour Dimension, The Welsh Office, 1978.

SADLER, P.G. (with EDWARDS, R.), The Retrofitting of the Existing World Tanker Fleet with Segregated Ballast: The Effects on Fishing off North East Scotland, OECD, Paris, 1978.

SADLER, P.G., "Shetland agriculture." In The Nevis Institute, The Shetland Report, vol. 2, The Nevis Institute, Edinburgh, 1978.

SEWEL, J.B., Social Consequences of Oil Development. Summary Report, Scottish Development Department, Central Research Unit, 1978.

"Role of the secondary school in peripheral areas." Scottish Education Research Association, Highland Conference Monograph, University of Stirling, 1978.

"Secondary education in Highland Scotland - some consumer concerns." Papers of the National Consumer Congress, London, 1978.

"Changes in the rural community - oil related activity and northern Scotland." (In Russian.) Great Britain-USSR Association, Edinburgh conference proceedings, London, 1977.

Recent ISSPA Publications
and publications of International Seminar on Marginal Regions

PRICES IN SCOTTISH RURAL AREAS: A PROPOSED INDEX

by A.A.D. Marr, G.A. Mackay and P.G. Sadler.

Contents: Chapter 1: Index numbers and their uses.

2: Structure and methods of compilation of the Retail Price Index.

3: The inapplicability of the Retail Price Index.

4: Other price indicators in the Highlands and Islands.

5: Regional price indices in other countries.

6: Conclusions.

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4: Statistical analysis: North and Middle North Sea.

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6: Projecting future losses.

7: An Economic Evaluation.

8: Conclusions and Summary.

Appendices.

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THE CHANGING FORTUNES OF MARGINAL REGIONS

Eds. P.G. Sadler & G.A. Mackay.

A report of the proceedings of the 2nd International Seminar on Marginal Regions held at Aberdeen in 1974.

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1. M. McCarthy & G. Walker.
   "Rural Depopulation in Ireland: its Causes and Consequences."

2. D. Law & N. Perdikis.
   "Population Stability and the Rate of Industrial Development in Mid-Wales."

3. P. Otnes.
   "The Failure of Socialism in One Fjord."

4. N. Aarsaether.
   "Norwegian Organisation of Producers' Marketing Control in Agriculture and Fishing."

5. B. Gillie.
   "Regional Development in the Republic of Ireland."

6. D.E.L. Thomas.
   "Manufacturing Industry and Regional Development."

7. A.P. Cohen.
   "Social Identity and the Management of Marginality."

8. R. Taylor.
   "Migration and the Residual Community."

9. J.S. Grant.
   "The Importance of the Part-Time Holding."

10. J. Thornley.
    "Planning Processes in Marginal Regions."

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THE LOCAL UNIT IN A WIDER CONTEXT

Ed. Sidsel Saugestad Larsen.

A report of the proceedings of the 3rd International Seminar on Marginal Regions held at Vannatun, Norway in 1976.

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1. O. Brox.
   "Phases in the Development of North Norwegian Settlement Structure."

2. L. Holtedahl.
   "How do Women in a Fjord Community see their Relationship to Regional/National Organizations."

3. K.J. Solstad.
   "The 'Lofoten Project' - Background and Purpose."

4. A. Høgmo.
   "The 'Lofoten Project' - the Innovation."

5. J. Sewel.
   "Education: a Linkage between the Periphery and the Wider Society."

6. G. Adams.
   "Links between National and Regional Economic Planning Agencies - the Case of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

7. J. Fletcher and S. Wanhill.
   "Central Government Financial Assistance for the Sparsely Populated Counties of England and Wales."

Published by Institute of Social Science, University of Tromsø.

Available from ISSPA.

150 pages.

Price £3.25

THE PROMISE AND THE REALITY - LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENTS IN MARGINAL REGIONS*

Ed. John Sewel.

A report of the proceedings of the 4th International Seminar on Marginal Regions held at Plockton, Wester Ross in 1977.

List of papers

Introduction: "Oil and Northern Scotland - the Promise and the Reality". John Sewel.

1. M. Leroy.
"Development of Marginal Regions on the Atlantic Rim: a Comparison of Policies in Atlantic Canada, Norway and Scotland."

2. J.G.L. Adams.
"Some Effects of Large Development Projects in Peripheral Areas."

3. S. Canning & G. Inglis.
"But will it make Sope? Prospects for Offshore Petroleum Development in Newfoundland."

4. J. Naustdalslid.
"Problems and Approaches for the Study of Oil-related Development and Local Politics."

5. G. Park.
"Notes on the Political Nexus in the Development of Marginal Regions."

6. J.C. Hansen.
"The One Company Town in Norway - can we Learn from the Recent Past in Planning for the Near Future?"

7. N. Aarsaether.
"Problems of Scale in Regional Development. An Oil-related Case from Northern Norway."

8. A. Selvik.
"The Social Consequences of Hydro-power Development in Marginal Communities."

9. K. Stenstadvold.
"Recruitment to Oil Related Activities in Norway: a Preliminary Analysis of Recruitment Distances."

10. P.G. Mewett.
"The Emergence and Persistence of Peripheral Areas in Relationship to the Processes of Development and Underdevelopment, with Particular Reference to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

11. D.M. Mageean.
"Oil and Development in Shetland: Social Structure and Change."

12. D. Hunt.
"Organisational Strategies and Technology Diffusion: the Case of Oil-involved Engineering Companies in the City of Aberdeen 1977."

13. D. Henderson.
"The Response of a Development Agency to Oil and Gas Related Developments."

*Forthcoming.